The correct conclusion would, therefore, be that during April-October 1991 exports to GCA countries showed a modest increase of about 5.5% in Dollar terms while exports to RPA countries showed a decline of about 52% in Dollar terms, as compared to April-October 1990.

The reasons for the decline in exports to RPA countries are mainly external and include the political changes that have taken place in the erstwhile Soviet Union.

Other factors which have affected export growth include a slow-down in the world economy, recession in major developed countries, unavoidable import compression and high rate of export credit.

(d) and (e). Due to uncertainties in the global trading environment, collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union, a major trading partner of India, and the lag for the far reaching economic reforms to have a real impact on exports, no export targets for 1991-92 have been finalised.

(f) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing ad optimal import compression. REP licences have been replaced by Eximscrips. These will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of imports of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government has decided to allow established exporters to open foreign currency accounts in approved banks and allow exporters to raise external credits pay for, export related imports from such accounts, and credit export proceeds to such accounts. Besides, Government have taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for exports, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussion with selected countries, interaction with national organisations of trade and industry etc.

[*Translation*]

Import of Fax Machines

* 70 SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Facsimile Automatic Transmission (FAX) Machines have been transferred from Appendix 1-A to Appendix 3-A of the new import policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the production of FAX machines in India is likely to be adversely affected due to import of these machines; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Import of Facsimile Automatic Transmission (FAX) machines is allowed as an office machine by eligible Registered Exporters and Government Departments etc. Its import is also allowed against Eximscrips.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The indigenous production of FAX machines is not sufficient to meet the requirements within the country.

[*English*]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

*71. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: